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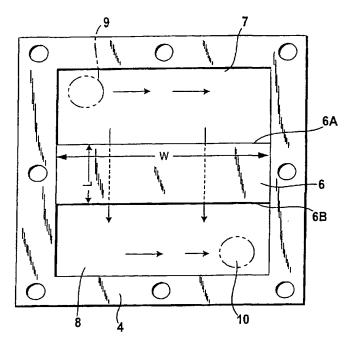
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(57) Abstract: A gas diffusion layer (6) is sandwiched between catalyst electrode layers (5) and separators (1, 2), and side faces (6A, 6B) of the gas diffusion layer (6) are arranged so as to face a gas inlet manifold (7) and outlet manifold (8), and partition the inlet manifold (7) and outlet manifold (8). In the gas diffusion layer (6), gas flows from the side face (6A) facing the inlet manifold (7), flows through the interior, and flows out from the side face (6B) facing the outlet manifold (8).

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 H01M4/86 H01M4/96 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 HO1M Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1-7 Α vol. 2000, no. 20, 10 July 2001 (2001-07-10) & JP 2001 076747 A (MICRO:KK), 23 March 2001 (2001-03-23) cited in the application abstract PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1-7 vol. 2000, no. 07, 29 September 2000 (2000-09-29) & JP 2000 123850 A (FUJI ELECTRIC CO LTD), 28 April 2000 (2000-04-28) abstract Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. ° Special categories of cited documents: \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance noitnevai earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 15/10/2004 5 October 2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Koessler, J-L

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